

**METHOD OF DELETING UNNECESSARY INFORMATION  
FROM A DATABASE**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A computer-implemented method of managing documents related to a  
patent application. In one embodiment the method includes storing a plurality  
documents related to a patent application in a database accessible to a server system,  
where each of the plurality of documents has a document type and where the plurality  
of documents includes at least one document having a first document type and at least  
one document having a second document type. The method also includes storing a rule  
10 in the database that indicates specific document types to be deleted from the database in  
response to a predetermined event occurring related to prosecution of the patent  
application, where the rule indicates that documents of the second type should be  
deleted but not documents of the first type; receiving a signal at the server system  
indicating the predetermined event has occurred; and after receiving the signal,  
15 implementing the rule to delete documents of the second type in the database that are  
related to the patent application but not delete documents of the first type that are  
related to the patent application.

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